

advance the happiness and prosperity of the people? Under ordinary circumstances this could readily be answered. The best that could be done for a people inhabiting such a country, would be to fortify their peace and security, the prosecution of their various pursuits, and the defence of their territory from without, and the defence of their territory from within. The rest, for the greater part, is left to their own energy and enterprise. The chief embarrassments which at the moment have arisen from the war, and the most difficult task which remains to be accomplished, is that of correcting and overhauling the currency. Between the years 1833 and 1837, additions were made to bank capital and circulation in the form of notes designed for circulation to an extent enormously great. The question is, in what manner the greatest amount of bank paper could be put in circulation, and the time being, it answered the purpose of the country; an over issue was attended, as a necessary consequence, by an extravagant increase of the prices of property, the spread of a speculative fever over the country, and has finally ended in a general indebtedness on the part of States and individuals, the prostration of public and private credit, the depreciation in the market value of real estate, and has left large districts of almost entirely without any circulating

medium of the fact that, in 1830, the whole bank circulation within the United States amounted to \$1,323,898, according to the Treasury statement, and that an addition had been made thereto of \$8,000,000, in seven years, bringing the circulation on the first of January, 1837, to \$9,323,898, aided by the great facilities afforded in obtaining loans from European capitalists, who were seized with the same speculation which pervaded in the United States—the large importations of funds from abroad, the sale of stock and bonds—no one can be at the present prostration of every thing, and in which has befallen so many of our fellow-citizens in the sudden withdrawal from circulation of an amount of bank issues, since 1837—\$8,000,000, as is believed, the amount added to the currency for a similar period antecedent to the war, ceases to be a matter of astonishment that extensive shipwreck should have been made of their engagements on the part of the debtor. Apart from which, if there be taken into the immense losses sustained in the dishonouring of banks, it is less a matter of surprise that the currency should have visited many of our citizens, than that so many should have experienced the blighting influences of the times.

The solemn conviction of these truths, and the ardent desire to meet the pressing necessities of the country, I felt it to be my duty to cause to be submitted to you, at the commencement of the session, the plan of an Exchequer, the power and duty of maintaining which, in public vigor, was to be exercised by the Representatives of the People and the States, and, there, virtually by the people themselves. It was to place it under the control and direction of a Treasury Board to consist of three Commissioners, whose duty it should be to see that the law was faithfully executed, and that the medium of supplying a paper medium of exchange, convertible into gold and silver, should be maintained. The board thus constituted, was given permanency as could be imparted to it, without endangering the proper share of responsibility should attach to all public agents. In order to secure all the advantages of a well matured experience, the Commissioners were to hold their offices for respective periods of two, four, and six years, and to secure at all times in the management of the Exchequer, the services of two men of experience, and to place them in a condition to exercise independence of mind and action, it was provided that their removal should only take place on incapacity or infidelity to the trust, and followed by the President with an exposition of the causes of such removal, should it occur.

It was proposed to establish subordinate boards in each of the States, under the same restrictions and limitations of the power of removal, which, with the board, should receive, safely keep, and distribute the public moneys, and in order to furnish a paper medium of exchange, the Exchequer was to retain of the revenues of the Government a sum not to exceed \$5,000,000 in specie, to be set apart and required by its operations, and to pay the creditor at his own option, either in specie or in notes of denominations not less than five, and not exceeding one hundred dollars, which notes should be redeemable at the several places of issue, and be receivable at all times and every where in payment of government dues, with a restraint upon the issue of bills that the same should not exceed a maximum of \$15,000,000. In order to guard against all the hazards incident to fluctuations in the value of the Treasury was invested with authority to issue \$5,000,000 of Government bills, should the same at any time be required as a reserve, in order to place beyond hazard the redemption of the bills which might be issued into circulation. This in fact making the total \$15,000,000 of Exchequer bills, rest subject to redemption at any time, and keeping in circulation more than one and one half dollar for every dollar in specie.

It is to this it is added that the bills are not to be receivable in Government dues, and that the Government itself would be bound for the redemption, no national doubt can be entertained that the paper which the Exchequer would issue would readily enter into general circulation, and be maintained at all times at or above par with gold and silver; thereby realizing the great object of the age, and fulfilling the wishes of the People to have a medium of exchange, and to reimburse the Government the expense of the plan, it was proposed to invest the Exchequer with the limited authority to issue bills of exchange, unless prohibited by the State in which they might be situated, having only thirty days to run, and resting on a fair and bona fide debt. The Legislative will on this point might be fully announced, as to avoid all pretext for party or favoritism. It was furthermore proposed to invest this Treasury agent with authority to receive deposits, for a limited amount, the notes of individuals, and to grant certificates thereon, to be redeemed on presentation, under the idea, it is believed to be well founded, that such certificates would come in aid of the Exchequer bills, by affording a safe and ample circulation. Or, if of the contemplated dealings in exchange, the Exchequer should be authorized not only to exchange bills for actual deposits of specie, but for its equivalent in well drafted, charging a small but reasonable premium. I cannot but think that the benefit of the law would be very manifest in the revival of the credit and business of the whole. Entertaining this view, it becomes my duty to urge its adoption by Congress, by reference to the strongest common sense of the public interests, with such alterations in its details as Congress may in its wisdom deem proper. I am well aware that this proposed legislation and

vacation and... see that all steps are taken which may be necessary to the speedy discharge of the applicant.
WM. E. FUGH,
Attorney and Counsellor at Law,
Yazoo City, April 2, 1842.

Nov. 4, 1842. [P. 10] 17-81
We are prepared to make advances in specie on goods to be shipped to our friends in New Orleans.
FUGUA & WILSON,
Sept. 30, 1842. Lower Landing.

Yazoo City, March 30, 1842.
CALLICOES, Domestic bleached, 4-4 Lowels, Jeans for sale by J. H. CULLEN & CO. Sept. 30, 1842.